Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

2011-2012

ELECTIONS SASKATCHEWAN

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SASKATCHEWAN. CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICE

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OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

July 27, 2012

The Honourable Dan D'Autremont
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
129 Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B3

Honourable Speaker:

Pursuant to Section 286.1 of *The Election Act, 1996*, I have the distinct privilege of presenting the Annual Report for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

This Annual Report highlights Office activities for the period April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Boda

Michael Boda, D.Phil.,Ph.D.
Chief Electoral Officer
Province of Saskatchewan

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Definitions

Administrative Assistant: an election worker responsible for assisting the Returning Officer, and Election Clerk in all aspects of managing the Returning Office.

Constituency: an area defined by the Boundaries Commission containing about 8,000-12,000 potential voters.

Deputy Returning Officer (DRO): an election official responsible for the management of a polling location.

Election Act, 1996, The: the primary legislative document providing a framework for conducting provincial elections in Saskatchewan.

Election Calendar: a calendar that counts down from day minus 28-34 (the day the Writ is issued) to day 0 (Election Day) then up to day plus 23 (the Return to the Writ); it highlights tasks and milestones that are required in order to have a successful electoral event.

Election Clerk (EC): an election official responsible for assisting the Returning Officer in administering an electoral event.

Elections Saskatchewan: see Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Enumerator: an election official appointed to an assigned poll to gather and organize information of eligible elector's for the Voters' List.

ESPREE: Elections Saskatchewan Permanent Register of Eligible Electors - a computer database maintained by Elections Saskatchewan containing the list of eligible electors; it also contains modules for tracking the tasks required of each constituency during an election, and a module to input results on Election Night.

Information Officer: an election official appointed to help maintain the order and ensure the flow of voters at a polling place.

OCEO: Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer: also referred to as Elections Saskatchewan, it is an independent office of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly whose purpose is to direct and supervise the administrative and financial conduct of provincial electoral events.

Poll or Polling Place: is a place in which an eligible elector can cast his or her vote.

Poll Clerk (PC): an election official who assists the Deputy Returning Officer with his or her duties at the polling location.

Poll Key: a document which lists the names and ranges of addresses contained in each poll within a city in a constituency.

Polling Division: a geographic area containing approximately 300-350 voters in urban centers, and 150-250 voters in rural areas.

Rejected Ballot: refers to a ballot that: has not been supplied by the Deputy Returning Officer; has more than one choice indicated; has been written on or marked with anything by means of which the voter can be identified; or a ballot in which the voter's intention is not clear.

Returning Officer (RO): a person responsible, by law, for the administration of the electoral process within a specific constituency.

Supervisory Deputy Returning Officer (SDRO): is an election official appointed to supervise the workings of a central polling place; he or she is the liaison between the poll officials and the Returning Officer on Election Day.

Voter:

- must be a Canadian citizen on Election Day;
- is at least 18 years of age on Election Day;
- has resided in Saskatchewan for at least six months prior to the issuance of the Election Writ; and
- has resided in the constituency in which he or she wishes to vote on the day the Election Writ was issued; OR
- is a British subject who was qualified as a voter on June 23, 1971 and who has resided in Saskatchewan for at least six months prior to the issuance of the Election Writ and who has resided in the constituency in which he or she wishes to vote on the day the Election Writ was issued.

Writ: the official document signed by the Chief Electoral Officer after receiving an order from the Lieutenant Governor that grants the Returning Officer authority to hold an election in his or her constituency.

I. Message of the Chief Electoral Officer

It is a genuine honour to offer insight into the activities of The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (OCEO) through the publication of this Annual Report. Given my appointment as Chief Electoral Officer on June 1, 2012, the activities reflected within this document are not of my making, but of a staff that has shown commitment to facilitating better democratic processes and improved electoral events in the Province of Saskatchewan over the course of the year.

For this office, the highlight of the 2011-12 fiscal year has certainly been the conduct of the General Election held on November 7, 2011. Election Day, as an event, draws the attention of all citizens to the important role they have in maintaining and building democratic institutions within this Province. Yet this Report offers a window on the fact that elections are not just an event, but a cyclical activity that requires the attention of all electoral stakeholders—whether political parties, civil society, or the voting public—during the months and years between General Elections.

The complexity of conducting an election has increased significantly in recent years, requiring that planning for, organizing, and conducting a modern electoral process takes a cyclical approach to election management which focuses on a broader set of issues in a manner consistent with best practices in election administration.

During 2011-12, the OCEO has demonstrated its commitment to supporting this approach. A number of new initiatives were introduced in preparation for and the conduct of the 27th General Election. In four by-elections conducted since 2008, the Office has conducted a number of pilot projects, laying the foundation for an expansion of these across the Province during the 2011 General Election. These projects include:

- A mapping project which improved the overall look and feel of polling division maps, which were used to a great extent by Returning Officers, enumerators, poll officials, candidates and political parties;
- Improvements to the Voters' List module of the Elections Saskatchewan Permanent Register of Eligible Electors (ESPREE) and two new modules including an election calendar module for Returning Officers and an Election Night results reporting module;
- Increased training for Returning Officers and their staff;
- Increased training and responsibilities for Supervisory Deputy Returning Officers;
- Bright, easy to read signage for Returning Offices and polling places;
- Training sessions for business managers;
- A renewal and overview of manuals and forms for Returning Officers, enumerators and poll officials;
- An electronic Candidates' Financial Return;
- Consistent branding on advertising, brochures, website, etc.;
- Expanded use of social media for advertising;
- Use of new advertising methods, including in movie theatres; and
- New, more user-friendly website, including a new constituency locator.

Readers of this Report will be introduced to these and various other important activities of the OCEO over the past year by reviewing the pages that follow. I encourage you to take a closer look at what has been achieved during 2011-2012.

As I transition into the position of Chief Electoral Officer, I want to thank those across the Province who have worked so hard to fulfill the OCEO's legislative mandate. The completion of a successful General Election requires the focus and diligence of a team dedicated to an election's success. Since my arrival, I have learned that the staff at our head office went above and beyond what might ordinarily be expected in the conduct of electoral events. I am grateful for the leadership of Assistant Chief Electoral Officer David Wilkie, acting in the role of CEO, and Chief Operating Officer Saundra Arberry, both working in the absence of a permanent Chief Electoral Officer. I also want to express my genuine thanks to each member of the OCEO for the diligence they have demonstrated over the past year. I need to emphasize, in particular, the essential contribution of all Returning Officers and other election workers in the conduct of the 2011 General Election. Without them, this election would not have been a success.

Fulfilling the role of Chief Electoral Officer of Saskatchewan is more a vocation than a job. As an independent Officer of the Legislative Assembly, the person in this position is required to demonstrate neutrality and an integrity worthy of the trust of all electoral stakeholders in the Province. As I begin my mandate, I take seriously the responsibilities placed in my hands. I am committed to implementing the coming electoral cycle in a manner that is consistent with legislation, is operationally efficient and facilitates effective relationships with all those involved in building and maintaining Saskatchewan's democratic processes. Working collaboratively with a team within the OCEO and with election professionals across the country, my goal will be to shape and implement electoral processes in Saskatchewan that are consistent with electoral best practice in Canada and around the world.

Michael Boda, D.Phil., Ph.D.
Chief Electoral Officer
Province of Saskatchewan
July 2012

II. Executive Summary

This Annual Report of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (OCEO) outlines and discusses strategic initiatives and OCEO activities over a 12 month period.

From April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012, the OCEO, in addition to annual operational activities, undertook preparations and administration for the 2011 General Election.

The first section details the Mission Statement, Mandate, Values and Responsibilities of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

This is followed by a section on the operational activities of the OCEO. This section outlines annual activities with respect to Returning Officers, registered political parties including registration, annual reporting of the OCEO including Detail of Expenditures, statutory compliance assistance and public disclosure/public relations.

A discussion on the Twenty-Seventh General Election follows next with a brief summary, comments, and recommendations. Several pilot projects were implemented for the General Election and are listed accordingly.

The section on Financial Administration includes expenditures of the OCEO, Saskatchewan political contributions tax credit system, political party annual and campaign finance reporting, and compliance.

Liaison outlines Office participation with federal, provincial, and territorial election jurisdictions as well as local and international spheres including the Council on Government Ethics Laws and the Conference of Canadian Election Officials,

The report concludes with an update on continuing education and staffing in the OCEO.

III. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (OCEO)

A. Mission Statement

To ensure the right of the people of Saskatchewan to participate freely in honest, open and fair electoral events, and to encourage the involvement of political parties, candidates and electors by raising their awareness and understanding of electoral processes that are transparent, efficient and accessible.

B. Mandate

The OCEO is a non-partisan body charged with the mandate of directing and supervising the administrative and financial conduct of provincial electoral events. The Chief Electoral Officer, appointed by resolution of the Legislative Assembly, directs the OCEO and its activities. Under *The Election Act, 1996*, the OCEO is responsible for the administration of Provincial General Elections, By-Elections, enumerations (other than during a writ of election) and provincial elections finances. The OCEO is additionally charged with the administration of the Province's political contributions tax credit disclosure system under *The Political Contributions Tax Credit Act*. The OCEO periodically administers and oversees referenda and plebiscites under *The Referendum and Plebiscite Act* and time votes under *The Time Act*.

The OCEO's mandate is supported by the contributions of administrative and professional personnel as detailed in the organizational chart at the end of this section. *The Senate Nominee Election Act (Saskatchewan)* was passed in the Legislative Assembly on May 14, 2009. Upon proclamation, the administrative responsibilities for the election of nominees for the Senate, would be added to the responsibilities of the OCEO.

C. Values

Elections Saskatchewan is committed to transparency, inclusivity, and efficiency. We strive to deliver 'democracy in action' with dependability, energy, and engaged professional vision. In seeking progress and reaffirming our commitment to continuous improvement, we are invested in the future through our work - both day to day, and election to election.

The values of Elections Saskatchewan are as follows:

- To be independent and non-partisan ensuring public confidence in the independence of the OCEO and its activities by treating all stakeholders equally and without preference;
- To have integrity making certain that every decision and every action enhances the democratic rights of all electors by interpreting and applying policy and legislation fairly and consistently;
- To be open and transparent in all activities through consistency of action, regular and public reporting, broad communications and information sharing between and during electoral events;
- To be accountable to electors and the members of the Legislative Assembly through statutory reporting of activity and performance against published standards and open discussion of the legislative and regulatory framework for electoral events and election finances;
- To be efficient in designing processes and ensuring financial accountability through the development,

management and deployment of up-to-date and cost-effective technology, processes, access channels and tools that encourage maximum participation and facilitate maximum compliance with financial reporting obligations;

- To be effective in electoral event delivery procedures and operations reducing barriers to compliance, participation and access to the process for electors, candidates and parties, ensuring that workers are well prepared, processes are well designed and measurement systems are in place;
- To be innovative, creative and flexible in delivering the present and preparing for the future looking broadly for opportunities and partnerships while considering electoral process needs and adopting optimal solutions;
- To be consultative with all our stakeholders using advisory committees to evaluate legislative, regulatory and operational frameworks to ensure that they are current and relevant, regularly reviewing all stakeholder perspectives and needs, and by sharing evaluations of Elections Saskatchewan's performance;
- To be professional in all our activities by bringing to Saskatchewan the best practices of electoral administrators across Canada and in democracies across the world; and
- To create a cooperative working environment and encourage all members of the election team to work together and to work with their stakeholders and partners to better serve the electorate of Saskatchewan.

D. Vision

We are committed to protecting and facilitating the democratic process. We seek to instill the importance of voting in the residents of Saskatchewan. Each Election provides new challenges and also provides new opportunities for development and success.

The OCEO strives to be hardworking, forward thinking, and fair. As an independent office we are committed to the process and the value of every vote cast. As such, there are eight aspects to our vision:

- Broadly-based communications initiatives, publications and advertising, combined with focused outreach programs will ensure that all stakeholders are fully aware of their opportunities to be involved in the electoral process.
- Administrative and physical barriers that challenge or deter electors will be identified, removed and replaced by inclusive and accessible processes and procedures that will encourage the highest level of participation in Saskatchewan electoral events.
- Electors will have the opportunity to use proven and leading-edge technologies to obtain electoral information and participate in all aspects of the electoral process, including voter registration and casting their ballot.
- Cost effective electoral processes will take advantage of state-of-the-art information and technical systems that capitalize on public investment in government databases and related activities and also benefit from public and private sector partnerships within Saskatchewan and across Canada.
- Increased compliance with the election finances provisions of the legislation will be achieved through the direct involvement of political parties, candidates, official agents and business managers in the development of a full range of simplified assistance tools to be provided by Elections Saskatchewan, resulting in reduced investigation and enforcement activity.

- The wishes and needs of all stakeholders in the electoral process will be canvassed and considered through formalized and timely outreach and consultative processes with provisions for meaningful review and feedback.
- Through timely reviews of electoral processes and legislation by Saskatchewan's legislators and the Chief Electoral Officer, necessary innovation and flexibility in the statutory operational framework will be achieved while preserving the integrity of the system.
- A pool of well-trained election officers will be available to ensure that Elections Saskatchewan can meet its event-readiness mandate.

E. Responsibilities

The Chief Electoral Officer's primary responsibility is to maintain a state of election readiness. We are committed to both the people and the process. To that end, the OCEO must appoint and train requisite numbers of election officials, including Returning Officers, to ensure electoral preparedness at all times.

The Election Act, 1996, places a duty on the OCEO to assist registered political parties, candidates, chief official agents and business managers to ensure compliance with the financial transparency and disclosure requirements of *The Election Act, 1996.* In fulfillment of this duty, the OCEO publishes guidance documentation to assist chief official agents and business managers in discharging their administrative and financial reporting responsibilities, in compiling requisite support documentation, and in undertaking annual financial disclosure in accordance with *The Election Act, 1996* and *The Political Contributions Tax Credit Act.* The OCEO also conducts electoral educational workshops throughout the Province to ensure effective execution of election activities.

The OCEO is responsible for assessing and reimbursing, where applicable, election expenses paid from the Province's General Revenue Fund. The OCEO has established a system of financial review to certify public reimbursement of election expenses through the examination and audit of registered political parties' and candidates' expense returns and requisite disclosure documentation. To promote transparency, expense return details are published and tabled in the Legislative Assembly for public review.

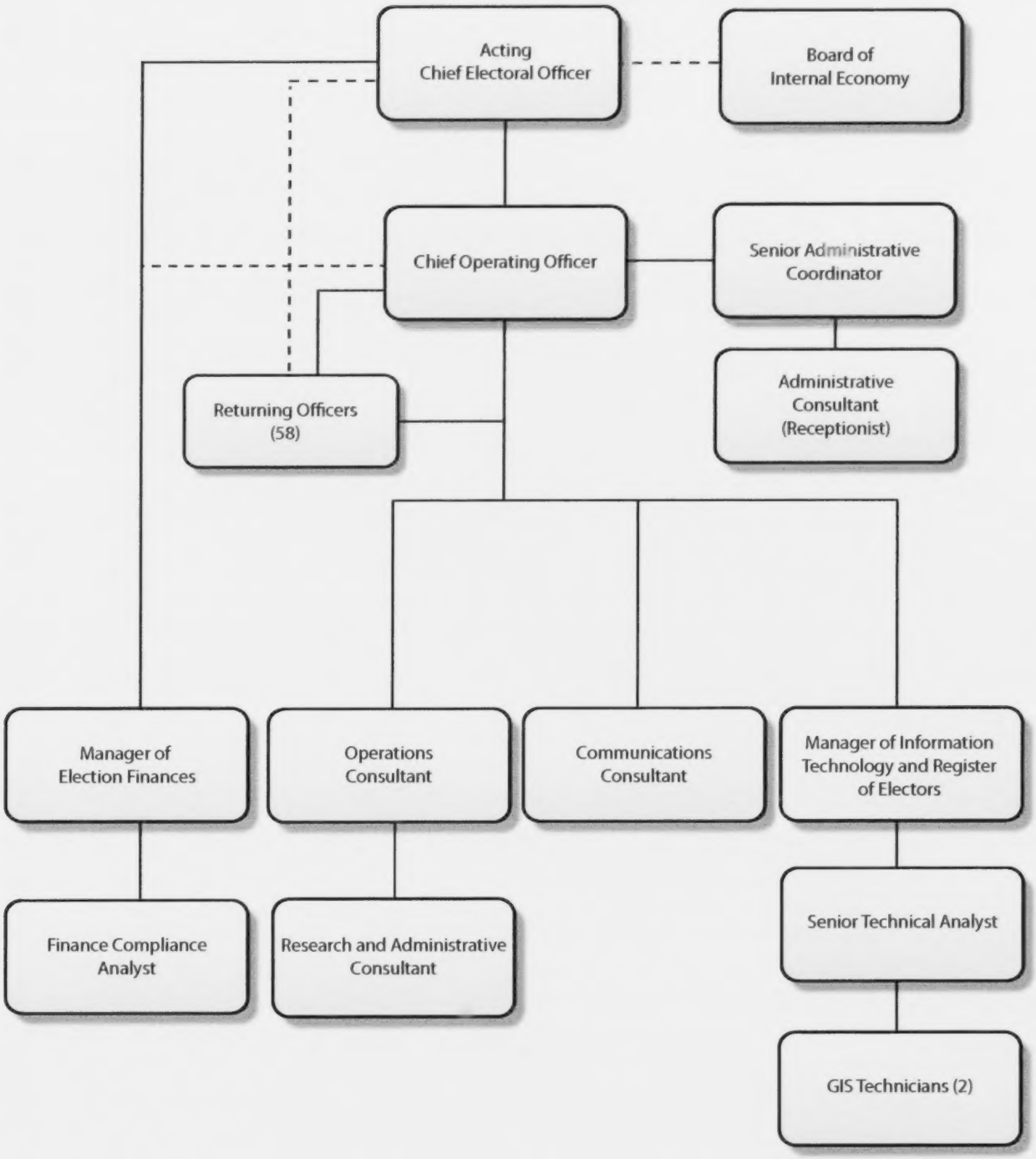
The OCEO is responsible for investigating suspected or alleged contraventions of *The Election Act, 1996,* as the Chief Electoral Officer considers necessary. The OCEO, in determining if an offence has been committed, considers whether the overall purposes, policy rationales and/or legislative intentions of *The Election Act, 1996* were violated in the circumstances at issue. Where the Chief Electoral Officer determines that the alleged contravention is supported on the investigative evidence, the OCEO forwards the matter to the Ministry of Justice for prosecutorial review.

The Chief Electoral Officer reports annually to the Board of Internal Economy on budgetary matters and to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on matters related to *The Election Act, 1996.* In addition to such annual reporting, the Chief Electoral Officer prepares and tables reports in the Legislative Assembly on all electoral specific activities. Provincial election results are published in the *Statement of Votes (Volume I)* and its complementary volumes *Report of the Chief Electoral Officer Campaign Contributions and Expenditures (Volume II) and Recommendations for Changes to The Election Act, 1996 (Volume III).*

The OCEO maintains a public relations program to raise political stakeholder and public awareness of important aspects of the OCEO's mandate, to respond to public enquiries, and to liaise with registered political parties, candidates and their chief official agents and business managers.

Above all, the mandate of the OCEO is defined by the unique and complex character of Saskatchewan's polity, including the inherent uncertainty of the provincial electoral cycle, the decentralized nature of electoral administration, and the multi-layered interaction among registered political parties, candidates and the electorate.

F. Elections Saskatchewan Organizational Chart (as of March 31, 2012)

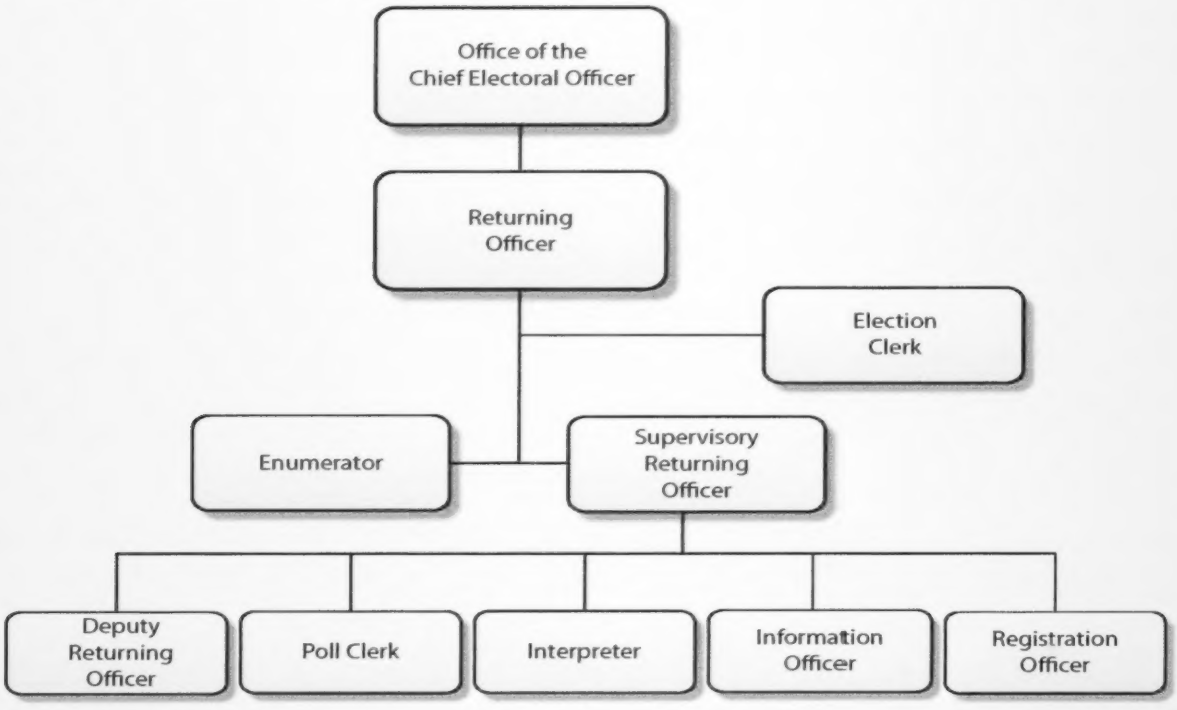


IV. Annual Elections Saskatchewan Activities

This section outlines specific OCEO activities undertaken annually to maintain a state of provincial election readiness.

The decentralized nature of Elections Saskatchewan's electoral administration is depicted in the schematic below.

A. Decentralized Electoral Administration – Elections Saskatchewan



B. Returning Officers

An important part of maintaining election readiness is having Returning Officer's appointed for the province's 58 constituencies.

Central electoral administration is the responsibility of the OCEO, with regional operational conduct of electoral events being the responsibility of Returning Officers.

As representatives of the OCEO, Returning Officers are entrusted with advancing the neutrality of the province's decentralized electoral process by administering and reporting on electoral proceedings (general or by-elections, referenda and plebiscites).

To facilitate the Returning Officer hiring process, the OCEO launched an aggressive recruitment campaign, advertising in newspapers across the province, as well as widely distributing posters and recruiting information. Subsequently, interviews were conducted across the province by a three-person panel composed of three of the following positions: the Manager of Election Finances, the Administrative Services Consultant, the Operations Consultant, and/or the Human Resource Advisor from the Legislative Assembly Service.

Of the 58 Returning Officer positions:

- 44 have been appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer;
- 12 order-in-council appointments remain in place; and
- 2 are vacant.

1. Current Returning Officers (at the time of writing)

Constituency	Returning Officer	Constituency	Returning Officer
Arm River-Watrous	Noreen Johns	Regina Elphinstone-Centre	Lisa Workman
Athabasca	Martin Corrigal	Regina Lakeview	Margo Soriano
Batoche	Carmelle Cournoyer	Regina Northeast	Deborah Stevens
Biggar	Violet Kyliuk	Regina Qu'Apple Valley	Tanya Lunnin
Cannington	Norm G. Riddell	Regina Rosemont	Dawn McDougall
Canora-Pelly	Vivian Krakowski	Regina South	Sandra R. Benson
Carrot River Valley	Maureen Kurtz	Regina Walsh Acres	Paul J. Wilson
Cumberland	Marlene Wolkosky	Regina Wascana Plains	Jeannette D. Martin
Cut Knife-Turtleford	Gayla Morgan	Rosetown-Elrose	June Hintze
Cypress Hills	Melinda Roast	Rosthern-Shellbrook	Ellen Wood
Estevan	Vernon Forbes	Saskatchewan Rivers	Anne King
Humboldt	Jewel Thiessen	Saskatoon Centre	Evelyn Sharman
Indian Head-Milestone	Elaine Weimer	Saskatoon Eastview	Danny Boyer
Kelvington-Wadena	Annette Dubé	Saskatoon Fairview	Rosemarie Hackl
Kindersley	Dorothy Arthurs	Saskatoon Greystone	Judy Widdup
Last Mountain-Touchwood	Bentley Hilderman	Saskatoon Massey Place	Annette Yarmovich
Lloydminster	M. Josephine Taylor	Saskatoon Meewasin	Ivy C. Hubble
Martensville	Joan Steckler	Saskatoon Northwest	Darlene E. Britton
Meadow Lake	Margaret Alger	Saskatoon Nutana	Michael Fisher
Melfort	Larry Zemlak	Saskatoon Riversdale	Angela Yaganiski
Melville-Saltcoats	Kathy Adams	Saskatoon Silver Springs	Jane Garry
Moose Jaw North	Marylynn Smith	Saskatoon Southeast	Loretta Metzger
Moose Jaw Wakamow	Vacant	Saskatoon Sutherland	Cecilia Boensch
Moosomin	Vacant	Swift Current	Beryl Robinson
Prince Albert Carlton	Barry Swanson	The Battlefords	Gail Morgan
Prince Albert Northcote	Jeff Fisher	Thunder Creek	Lynne Saas
Regina Coronation Park	Roger Sydorko	Weyburn-Big Muddy	Michael Harder
Regina Dewdney	Ruth M. Taylor	Wood River	Barbara Ermel
Regina Douglas Park	Gerry Hodges	Yorkton	Carol Krochak

C. Registered Political Parties

As of March 31, 2012, six political parties were registered in the province. Their names, abbreviations, leaders and chief official agents, as recorded on the Register of Political Parties, are set out in the following table:

REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES

Political Party Name	Party Abbreviation	Party Leader	Chief Official Agent	Website
Green Party of Saskatchewan	Green Party	Victor Lau	Penny Swartz	www.greenpartysask.ca
New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	New Democratic Party (N.D.P.)	John Nilson	Dale Schmeichel	www.saskndp.com
Progressive Conservative Party of Canada	P.C. Party of Sask.	Rick Swenson	Luke Schmidt	www.pcsask.ca
Saskatchewan Liberal Association	Saskatchewan Liberal Party	Greg Gallagher	Gerald Hiebert	www.saskliberals.ca
Saskatchewan Party	Saskatchewan Party	Brad Wall	Saskatchewan Party Fund Inc. (Patrick Bundrock)	www.saskparty.com
Western Independence Party of Saskatchewan (W.I.P.)	Western Independence Party (W.I.P.)	Dana Arnason	John Koban	www.wipsk.com

In accordance with Section 232 of *The Election Act, 1996*, the Register of Political Parties is available for public inspection at Elections Saskatchewan.

1. Registration

Under Section 224 of *The Election Act, 1996*, a political party may apply for registration any time between the days fixed for the return to a writ of a general election and the fifth day after the issuance of a writ of election.

A registration application must be in prescribed form and be accompanied by a complete and accurate petition for registration. Each petition must be executed by no fewer than 2,500 eligible provincial voters, 1,000 of whom must reside in at least ten provincial constituencies, with a minimum of 100 voters in each of those respective constituencies.

Concurrent with its application and petition, a political party must file a written statement declaring that its primary purpose is to field candidates for election as Members of the Legislative Assembly. An audited financial statement must also be filed along with prescribed information in respect of the party's leader, senior officers, chief official agent and auditor.

Once the OCEO has reviewed all requisite registration documentation and vetted the application, the Chief Electoral Officer will register the political party and, in accordance with Section 233 of *The Election Act, 1996*, publish its name in The Saskatchewan Gazette.

A political party, once registered, is entitled to incur expenses, solicit and receive contributions, participate in the province's political contributions tax credit system, and field candidates for election to the Legislative Assembly. Registered Political Parties in an election/by-election year are also entitled, where eligible, to reimbursement of a portion of lawfully incurred election expenses.

2. Potential Candidates

In accordance with Section 230 of *The Election Act, 1996*, any individual selected to be a candidate by a registered political party's constituency association, or a person a party intends to endorse, must give written notice to that effect to the OCEO. Such notification must be filed in conjunction with the candidate's written appointment and consent of a business manager in accordance with Section 236, and written appointment and consent of an auditor in accordance with Section 238 of *The Election Act, 1996*.

The OCEO maintains a Register of Potential Candidates and information filed under Section 236 and 238 of *The Election Act, 1996* for public review.

As of March 31, 2012, there were no individuals registered on the Register of Potential Candidates.

D. Annual Reporting, Statutory Compliance and Public Disclosure

1. Annual Reporting

Statutory reporting is the means by which the Legislative Assembly has directed the OCEO to report on activities managed by the Chief Electoral Officer. Such reporting, in addition to outlining the conduct of each electoral event and financial practices related, provides an annual update of OCEO activities for consideration by the Legislative Assembly and members of the public.

While there is no legislative requirement to do so, the OCEO will continue to produce a *Detail of Expenditures* for each fiscal year and to request the document be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The OCEO, pursuant to Sections 7 and 286 of *The Election Act, 1996*, and *The Tabling of Documents Act, 1991*, prepared and tabled the following reports in the Legislative Assembly from April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012.

2. Elections Saskatchewan - Tabled Reports

No.	Report Tabled	Date Tabled
31	*Chief Electoral Officer: Report pursuant to Section 286 of The Election Act, 1996 for the by-elections held on October 18, 2010 in the constituency of Saskatoon Northwest*	December 14, 2011
342	*Chief Electoral Officer: Annual Report, pursuant to Section 286.1 of The Election Act, 1996 for the year ended March 31, 2011*	August 2, 2011
673	*Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2010*	October 7, 2010
20	*Return of the Writ for the election of 58 Members*	December 5, 2011
32	*Chief Electoral Officer: Report, pursuant to subsection 7(6) of The Election Act, 1996, dated October 18, 2010*	December 22, 2011

3. Elections Saskatchewan Published Notices - The Saskatchewan Gazette

To comply with Sections 174, 221, 233 and 262 of *The Election Act, 1996*, the OCEO also published the following notices in The Saskatchewan Gazette from April 1, 2011, to March 31, 2012, as set out in the following table:

Date Gazetted	Volume/ Number	Gazetted Item
September 23, 2011	Vol. 107, No. 38	Appointment of Returning Officers: Cypress Hills, Estevan, Last Mountain-Touchwood, Prince Albert Northcote, Regina Douglas Park, Regina Lakeview, Saskatoon Greystone, Saskatoon Sutherland
September 23, 2011	Vol. 107, No. 38	Notice that the Saskatchewan Marijuana Party is deleted from the Register of Political Parties, effective May 12, 2011
September 30, 2011	Vol. 107, No. 39	Appointment of Returning Officers: Cut-knife Turtleford
October 14, 2011	Vol. 107, No. 41	Appointment of Returning Officers: Estevan
December 9, 2011	Vol. 107, No. 49	Return of Members Elected (58) at the November 7, 2011 Provincial General Election

In support of the heightened transparency objective of *The Election Act, 1996*, the foregoing reports, documents and notices are available for public review at Elections Saskatchewan.

4. Statutory Compliance Assistance

The Election Act, 1996, places a duty on the OCEO to assist registered political parties, candidates, chief official agents and business managers to discharge administrative and financial reporting responsibilities, to compile requisite support documentation and to disclose annual and electoral financial details in accordance with *The Election Act, 1996*, and *The Political Contributions Tax Credit Act*. To this end, the OCEO has previously published various guides for business managers. Training sessions for business managers took place in Regina and Saskatoon and an electronic candidate's return form was developed and used during the 2011 General Election.

5. Public Disclosure/Public Relations

In accordance with Section 232 of *The Election Act, 1996*, the Chief Electoral Officer will supply any person who so requests copies of, or extracts from, registers or any report, return or document pertaining to a registered political party or candidate, which are statutorily filed with the OCEO.

It should be noted that such reports, returns and documents may not be complete and/or may contain errors and/or omissions, as the OCEO's review and verification of such documentation may not have been completed at time of initial public inspection. Following OCEO review and verification, all finalized reports, returns and documents remain available for public inspection at Elections Saskatchewan.

The OCEO also maintains a public relations program to raise political stakeholder and public awareness of important aspects of the OCEO's mandate, to respond to public inquires, and to liaise with registered political parties, candidates and their chief official agents and business managers.

V. Twenty-Seventh General Election

The Writ of Election was issued on Monday, October 10, 2011, for a Monday, November 7, 2011, General Election.

A. Key Dates

Thursday, September 8 to Monday, September 26	Enumeration takes place
Monday, October 10	Writs issued
Thursday, October 13 to Wednesday, October 26	Revision Period
Saturday, October 22	Nominations Day (2:00 p.m. CST)
Tuesday, November 1	First day of advance voting (3:00 to 10:00 p.m. CST)
Wednesday, November 2	Second day of advance voting (3:00 to 10:00 p.m. CST)
Thursday, November 3	Third day of advance voting (3:00 to 10:00 p.m. CST)
Friday, November 4	Fourth day of advance voting (3:00 to 10:00 p.m. CST)
Saturday, November 5	Fifth day of advance voting (12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. CST)
Monday, November 7	Election Day (9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. CST)
Thursday, November 17	Deadline of receipt of Absentee Voter Certificate Envelopes (post marked not later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day)
Saturday, November 19	Final Count
Wednesday, November 30	Return to the Writ
Wednesday, February 8, 2012	Audited Candidate's Return of Election Expenses due
Tuesday, May 8, 2012	Audited Registered Political Party's Return of Election Expenses due

B. Provincial Enumeration

On August 11, 2011, new regulations came into force allowing for enumeration to take place outside of the Writ period. From the 8th of September through to the 26th, a province wide enumeration was conducted for each of the province's 2,544 polling divisions. The regulations also legislated that the revision period, formerly one day, would be expanded to 14 full days. From October 13th through to the 26th eligible electors names that were not captured during the enumeration period, or electors who needed to revise their elector information, could either attend or call the Returning Officer for their constituency and request to have their names added to the Voters' List.

As a result of these efforts 603,084 provincial residents were placed on the revised Voters' List. Those residents not recognized on this list were able to register to vote by making a declaration at an advance poll or on polling day.

C. Candidate Nomination

On Saturday, October 22, 2011, nomination of candidates concluded. At close of nomination, all of the Province's Registered Political Parties nominated candidates (there was one candidate with no designation), as follows:

Registered Political Parties-Nominated Candidates/Votes Obtained/Candidates Elected

Registered Political Party	Number of Candidates	Number of Valid Votes	Percentage of Valid Votes	Candidates Elected
Green Party of Saskatchewan	58	11,561	2.87	-
New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	58	128,673	31.97	9
Independent	1	44	0.01	-
Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan	5	1,315	0.33	-
Saskatchewan Liberal Association	9	2,237	0.56	-
Saskatchewan Party	58	258,598	64.25	49
Western Independence Party of Saskatchewan (W.I.P.)	2	58	0.01	-
Totals	191	402,486	100	58

D. Voting

From November 1 - 5, 2011, 163 Advance Polls were conducted in the province's 58 constituencies. To facilitate electoral participation, special polling stations were established in 58 hospitals and 5 remand centres. Regular polling stations were open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. C.S.T. on the 7th of November enabling the province's 603,084 eligible voters the opportunity to exercise their democratic franchise. Eligible voters unable to attend either a regular, special or advance poll were entitled to vote by absentee ballot.

Method of Voting	Number of Votes
Number of Names on Voters' List	603,084
Votes Counted for Candidates	402,486
Votes Counted at Advance Polls	66,602
Votes Counted at Special Polls (Hospitals/Remand Centres)	980
Absentee Ballots Counted	4000
Rejected Ballots	1387
Unopened Ballot Envelopes	27
Total Number of Electors Who Voted	403,873
Percentage of Electors Who Voted	66.74

E. Electoral Results

Unofficial electoral results were published on the evening of November 7, 2011, resulting in 49 Saskatchewan Party and 9 New Democratic Party members elect. None of the candidates were elected by acclamation. Deposits were forfeited by 105 of the province's 191 candidates, pursuant to Section 47 of the *Act*, for not obtaining at least one half of the total number of votes cast for the candidate elected. The 105 candidates forfeiting their deposits included: 58 Green Party, 30 New Democratic Party, 2 Western Independence Party, 5 Progressive Conservative Party, 9 Saskatchewan Liberal Association, and 1 independent candidate.

On November 19, 2011, constituency Returning Officers tabulated the results of votes cast in the hospital and remand centre polls and by absentee ballot. These figures were then reflected in the relevant constituency results concluding the Final Count. Upon completion of the Final Count, on November 30, 2011, all constituency Returning Officers provided a Return to the Writ of Election. On December 9, 2011, the Office published in The Saskatchewan Gazette (Vol 107, No. 49) a notice of receipt of the Return to the Writ and the names of 58 candidates elected.

F. Comments on the General Election and on the use of Emergency Powers

Throughout this General Election some Returning Officers had difficulty recruiting poll officials. Some reasons stated for this difficulty were that the rate of pay is too low (to take a day off work the individual would lose money), not enough pay for 13-14 hours and getting too old to sit for 13-14 hours.

As required by subsection 7(3) of the *Act*, The Acting Chief Electoral Officer gave notice to every candidate and registered political party in the province in the constituencies of: Cut Knife-Turtleford regarding a Returning Officer (September 22, 2011); Carrot River Valley, Rosthern-Shellbrook and Saskatoon Centre

regarding enumerators (September 22, 2011); Regina Douglas Park and Saskatoon Sutherland regarding revising agents (October 12, 2011); Arm River-Watrous, Carrot River Valley, Cumberland, Cut Knife-Turtleford, Kelvington-Wadena, Martensville, Melville-Saltcoats, Moose Jaw Wakamow, Regina Douglas Park, Regina Elphinstone-Centre, Regina Lakeview, Regina Rosemont, Saskatoon Centre, Saskatoon Fairview, Saskatoon Northwest, Saskatoon Nutana and Saskatoon Silver Springs (November 5, 2011) and Rosthern-Shellbrook (November 7, 2011).

In total one Returning Officer, three enumerators, five revising agents, one poll clerk for an advance poll, as well as 82 Election Day poll officials, were required from outside their own constituency. The Election Day officials included five Supervisory Deputy Returning Officers, 29 Deputy Returning Officers, 39 Poll Clerks and nine spares.

Recommendations

Recruitment difficulties for enumerators and polling day officials began in 2003 during the General Election and continued during the 2007 General Election and the 2009/10 By-Elections. The OCEO recognized this as a warning about the staffing challenges Elections Saskatchewan would face for the November 7, 2011 General Election.

To combat the dwindling and aging pool of experienced election workers, the OCEO began a new outreach program. In 2011, Community Relations Officers (CROs) attended numerous fairs, career days, etc. in all 58 constituencies. As promising as this new outreach program was, other solutions were also required in order to find enough qualified persons to fill all the election official positions for the 2011 General Election.

After the Regina Douglas Park and Saskatoon Riversdale By-Elections, and the Saskatoon Northwest By-Election, similar reports on the use of the Chief Electoral Officer's Emergency Powers were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 24, 2009 and December 2, 2010 respectively.

While the Chief Electoral Officer currently has the power under subsection 7(3) of *The Act* to appoint election officers from outside their constituencies, it is on emergency provision and as such these appointments should be made at the last minute to qualify as an emergency. Setting out provisions more specifically in *The Act* would allow for such appointments to be made earlier and with less paperwork.

In the *Report of the Chief Electoral Officer – Volume III – Recommendations for Changes to The Election Act, 1996 - Twenty-Sixth Provincial General Election (Volume III)* which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on April 30, 2009, two of the 120 recommendations would eliminate the use of the Chief Electoral Officer's Emergency Powers for the purpose of recruiting election officers from outside the constituency.

G. Recommendations - Amendments to *The Election Act, 1996*

The advent of the regularization of the Annual Reports of the Chief Electoral Officer on a fiscal year basis with the Annual Report Compendium 2003-2005 and the Annual Reports of 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 brought the opportunity for the Chief Electoral Officer to make recommendations on amendments to *The Election Act, 1996*, on a regular basis.

After the 2007 General Election an extensive debriefing process took place with stakeholders including Returning Officers and some of their staff, voters with disabilities, registered political parties, major suppliers and the staff at the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

With the 2007-2008 fiscal year including a General Election, the new recommendations for amendments to *The Election Act, 1996*, and the repeat of old recommendations not yet addressed, were included in

the *Report of the Chief Electoral Officer: Volume III - Recommendations for Changes to The Election Act, 1996 - Twenty-Sixth Provincial General Election. Volume III* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on April 30, 2009. This report included approximately 120 recommendations for changes to *The Election Act, 1996*. As a result one change was made to *The Election Act, 1996*, fourteen changes were made via The Enumeration Regulations, 2011 and eight changes were implemented as much as possible via changes to policy and procedures.

With the 2011-2012 fiscal year including a general election, new recommendations for amendments to *The Election Act, 1996*, and the updating and/or repeat of previous recommendations not yet addressed, will be included in the *Report of the Chief Electoral Officer: Volume III - Recommendations for Changes to The Election Act, 1996 - Twenty-Seventh Provincial General Election.*

H. Pilot Projects used in this General Election

Operations

- Operations underwent significant change and improvements. Many forms and all manuals were updated. Manuals were streamlined for increased conciseness and easier readability. These process changes were undertaken to maximize usability and functionality for the end-user. Manuals and forms were provided on DVD to all Returning Officers along with their hard copy versions.
- Some other operational initiatives were the expansion of training and duties of the Supervisory Deputy Returning Officer (SDRO), decreasing the threshold number of polls for using SDROs in polling places, adding roving SDROs for some rural polls, using surveys to obtain feedback from automation coordinators and poll officials, engaging a consultant to review and summarize the written reports from Returning Officers and to facilitate the debriefing sessions with Returning Officers/Election Clerks and the staff of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (OCEO).
- Enumerators were provided with bright yellow, highly visible and identifiably branded safety vests. These vests were also worn by information officers and SDRO's on Election Day. Advertising campaigns were coordinated to inform the public about the enumerator and poll official apparel.
- The outreach program for voters with disabilities was revitalized. Some new disability services offered during the election were:
    - Sheet Magnifiers
    - Clipboards
    - Pencil grippers/longer pencils
    - More extensively trained Information Officers at polling entrances
    - TTY toll free number
    - Voters' guides in audio format
    - Information brochure for voters
- As part of the polling division review an Accessibility Checklist was required to be completed by the Returning Officer for each polling place to ensure maximum accessibility where possible. Entrance ramps and mats were placed in locations that required an upgrade in accessibility.

New Format for Voter Information Cards (VIC's)

A new type of VIC was implemented. These VIC's were printed in colour on full page (8.5" x 11") sheets with perforated tear off sections for each enumerated individual living at a residence. Cards for all members of a household were included in one envelope and mailed as one piece. This printing and delivery method resulted in a considerable cost saving in postage fees. The larger size format also allowed for more detailed election information to be printed on the card. Included on the card was information regarding the new ID requirements.

Training

- Training for the 2011 General Election was expanded and enhanced in comparison to previous electoral events. To increase retention and learning, the classroom style sessions involved more hands on interactive actives such as role playing, games, jumbo size sample forms, and small group breakout training exercises.
- Pre-Writ training sessions were held in May 2011 for all Returning Officers and Election Clerks. The purpose of this Pre-Writ session was to begin the process of electoral planning at the constituency level. Two-day enumeration sessions for all Returning Office staff were completed in June 2011. During these sessions election staff were given general instruction on the enumeration process and trained on the use of the electronic database (Elections Saskatchewan Permanent Register of Eligible Electors [ESPREE]) in order to facilitate the enumeration process.
- A final two and a half day training session on the electoral process was scheduled for mid to late August 2011. Due to the late approval of *The Enumeration Regulations* (late June, 2011) and The *Election Act Regulations* (August 19, 2011) these sessions had to be re-scheduled as a half-day session in late August to update Returning Officers and Election Clerks regarding Enumeration Regulations and two days in mid-September to complete the rest of training including the new ID requirements at the poll.

Finance

- The Manager of Election Finance worked with Ceridian to set up a payroll system that allowed the OCEO to make all required payroll and tax deductions while maintaining an effective payment schedule for such a large contingent of election workers. Upwards of 10,000 people were hired to work during the General Election.
- An electronic expense return form (E-412) was created and allowed electronic access to the election expense return form for business managers and candidates. The electronic form reduced data entry and calculation errors, as well as improved the accuracy of the expense returns. Improving the accuracy of the mathematical computations and data entry helped to reduce the time spent by Elections Saskatchewan finance staff on reviewing election expense returns. The end goal was to reduce the time and cost of reviewing expense returns thus reducing the time taken for reimbursements to be processed.
- Training sessions for all candidate business managers were offered along with an online resource area on the Elections Saskatchewan website. This ``Business Manager`s Bookshelf`` is an information portal where information, forms, various guides, interpretation bulletins, PowerPoint slides and training documents for business managers, auditors and the parties can be used.

Technology

- The new Election Night Results Module was completed and successfully utilized on Election Night. This Module displayed live results after the close of polls on Election Night. As results were entered by each Returning Office and confirmed at the OCEO, they were fed to our public website (including a format for mobile devices) and the national media consortium.
- Online webinars were conducted at the OCEO to train automation coordinators, data entry workers and Returning Officers in the use of ESPREE modules and data entry procedures. This allowed cost effective remote training for many individuals in various regions throughout the province from our OCEO location.
- Remote computer support was provided to Returning Officers who required computer assistance and application troubleshooting. IT staff were able to remotely log into field computers and provide timely assistance.

- The development and implementation of a call tracking database was used to track incoming calls (complaints, inquires, etc.). This resulted in a greater efficiency in the monitoring, recording, and follow up of various matters during the electoral event and increasing internal office communication.

Communications

Under the direction of Brown Communications, the OCEO underwent an internal branding workshop and completed a brand framework. A creative platform and brand guidelines were developed for the 2011 General Election. The new creative platform effectively communicated a consistent Elections Saskatchewan brand that reflects our values and vision. This brand was easy to understand, recognize, and remember while remaining flexible. Our chosen tag line is "Democracy in Action".

Advertising

- Brochures (general voters' guide, youth, aboriginal, absentee, work opportunities, and disability brochures), recruitment posters, Election Day posters, and other advertising literature were updated in terms of aesthetics and content. An aggressive advertising campaign was aimed at aiding the OCEO in recruiting election workers for the General Election and raising awareness about the electoral process (including the new voter I.D. requirements). This included new areas of media delivery such as cinema screen advertising in theatres across the province and expanded online banner advertising on popular provincial websites and geo-specific placement on Facebook.
- A province-wide postcard advertisement campaign was used to inform all Saskatchewan residents of the new ID requirements. Branded full colour postcards were delivered to all homes across the province reminding voters to bring their VIC and acceptable ID to the polls. A complete list of authorized ID for voting was included. In addition, there was a statement regarding election employment opportunities with directions to apply online at the Elections Saskatchewan website. In coordination with the postcards, large posters were prominently placed in all polling locations during advance polls and on Election Day.

Website

- The development of a new website was completed. In addition to an updated appearance, the new website features updated maps, poll keys, and an overhauled "where do I vote" feature which allows site visitors to easily and quickly find their constituency and polling place. The appropriate polling location is indicated on a map similar in appearance and functionality to the commonly utilized Google street maps.
- An updated 'apply online' application allowed interested parties to apply directly to their constituencies to serve as election workers. Applications (along with attached resumes) were automatically forwarded to the appropriate Returning Officer for follow up.
- The new website also featured a front page news stream and Twitter feed providing site visitors with up to date election related news and information.

Social Media

Elections Saskatchewan had an increased social media presence throughout summer 2011 and the election period. Twitter and Facebook were both used to deliver important information as well as engaging a commonly younger target audience. Daily monitoring of our feed allowed us to respond promptly to inquires, concerns, etc. and provided the OCEO more opportunities to engage the public in new avenues previously uncharted.

Outreach

- Due to the recognized need for a new pool of election workers, the OCEO launched an outreach project focused on spreading awareness of the forthcoming General Election and the electoral process and aimed at recruiting election workers.
- Eight students were hired as youth and aboriginal Community Relations Officers (CROs) for May-September, and part-time in the fall leading up to the General Election.
- Community events were identified within communities across every constituency. With the assistance of a Communications Coordinator these CROs attended a variety of events (rodeos, exhibitions, farmers' markets, Pow-Wows, festivals, etc.) across the province promoting the General Election and advancing the Elections Saskatchewan hiring campaign.
- The CROs also conducted outreach within various communities such as, but not limited to: homeless/transient populations of Saskatchewan; Aboriginal and Métis communities - urban, rural and on/off reserve; new immigrant communities; first time voters; and the disabled population.
- Public reaction to the program was almost universally positive. Venturing into communities across the province provided extensive opportunities for public awareness, engagement, and recruiting efforts in carrying out the values, vision, and mandate of the OCEO.

VI. Financial Administration

The Chief Electoral Officer is charged with administering the province's electoral statute, with assessing and, where applicable, reimbursing eligible election expenses paid from the Province's Consolidated Revenue Fund. The OCEO has established a system of financial review and audit to certify public reimbursement of election expenses by reviewing financial practices, documents and disclosure of Registered Political Parties and candidates. The expenses and income of Registered Political Parties and candidates are reported and the returns are audited.

A. Total Expenditures - Elections Saskatchewan

The OCEO annually presents budgetary expenditure estimates by function - administration, constituency Returning Officer maintenance and annual electoral related activities - to the Board of Internal Economy. Actual financial results for fiscal year 2011 - 2012 are set out in summary form in the following table:

Total Expenditures
Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012

	Budget	**Amount**
Expenditures	$15,784,000.00	$16,341,066.00
Capital	$25,000.00	0
Total	$15,809,000.00	$16,341,066.00

Audited financial statements will follow after the audit is complete.

B. Saskatchewan Political Contributions Tax Credit System

The political contributions tax credit system provides provincial resident taxpayers, inclusive of individuals and corporations, the opportunity to claim tax credits based on eligible contributions made to a registered political party or independent candidate for which a valid tax receipt is obtained. *The Political Contributions Tax Credit Act* governs the province's political contributions tax credit system and provides the basis for calculating political contribution tax credits for use by provincial resident taxpayers under *The Income Tax Act, 2000 (Saskatchewan)* (the "Provincial Tax Act").

Tax receipts issued by registered political parties or independent candidates must conform to policies underlying the *The Political Contributions Tax Credit Act* to qualify under the *Provincial Tax Act.*

The Chief Electoral Officer has interpreted these policies to include the election of Members to the Legislative Assembly and necessarily related activities. Specifically, registered political parties and independent candidates may receipt contributions from provincial resident taxpayers, in accordance with *The Political Contributions Tax Credit Act,* when those contributions are used to advance the democratic process in Saskatchewan.

1. Tax Receipts

Official income tax receipts are issued under Section 8 of the *The Political Contributions Tax Credit Act* by a chief official agent on behalf of a registered political party or by a business manager in the case of an independent candidate.

Only Chief Official Agents whose names are recorded in the Register of Political Parties maintained by the Chief Electoral Officer can issue tax receipts.

The business manager of an independent candidate is eligible to issue tax receipts if the Returning Officer in accordance with Subsection 48(2) of *The Election Act, 1996,* certifies the candidate's nomination.

- Tax receipts may be issued for eligible contributions of $25.00 or more received by a registered political party or independent candidate.

Effective with the 2004 taxation year, the tax credit available to provincial resident taxpayers is calculated in accordance with the following formula:

- where the total eligible contribution is $400 or less, the amount of the tax credit a taxpayer is entitled to claim for a taxation year is 75 percent of the total contribution, or
- where the total eligible contribution is greater than $400 but not greater than $750, the tax credit is $300 plus 50 percent of the amount by which the total contribution exceeds $400; and
- where the total eligible contribution is greater than $750, the tax credit a taxpayer is entitled to claim is lesser of:
    - $475 plus 33 percent of the amount by which the total contribution exceeds $750; or
    - $650.

C. Annual Financing Reporting

In accordance with Section 250 of *The Election Act, 1996,* the chief official agent of a registered political party shall annually file, prior to May 1st an audited fiscal period return in prescribed form detailing that party's financial activities for the preceding calendar year.

This annual financing reporting is undertaken on a *Registered Political Party's Fiscal Period Return* (Form E-521). Form E-521 reporting excludes expenses incurred during an election campaign period - such expenses are reported pursuant to Section 251 of *The Election Act, 1996.*

Form E-521 requires that individual donations of money and commercial value exceeding $250 received in a year from an individual, corporation, trade union, unincorporated organization or association or any other person or group of persons be reported.

To deter contributions from third party agents, registered political parties must enclose with their Form E-521, copies, certified by the party's chief official agent, of every statement or document a party received pursuant to subsections 240(6) and (7) of *The Election Act, 1996.* An auditor's report filed in accordance with Section 237 of *The Election Act, 1996,* must also accompany a registered political party's Form E-521.

Depicted in the following tables is a summary of registered political party contributions received, and expenses incurred, for the fiscal year 2011.

Fiscal Year 2011						
	Contributions		Expenses			
Registered Political Party	Total Contributions	Cash on Hand	Operating Expenses	Advertising	Other	Total
Green Party of Saskatchewan	$39,158.85	$1,533.34	$13,515.16	$1,935.96	$23,177.28	$38,628.40
New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	2,096,988.92	13,961.73	1,379,109.78	87,723.41	367,822.13	1,834,655.32
Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan	200,975.00	124,707.06	18,564.11	16,599.42	9,497.00	44,660.53
Saskatchewan Liberal Association	80,297.46	3,865.69	56,431.55	-	27,178.86	83,610.41
Saskatchewan Party	6,113,499.00	885,908.00	3,572,233.00	230,942.00	2,333,586.00	6,136,761.00
Western Independence Party of Saskatchewan (W.I.P.)	-	63.17	2,117.27	-	-	2117.27
Note: The information provided for 2011 is from fiscal returns as filed. Office review is ongoing and any required changes will be reported in the subsequent Annual Report.						

Pursuant to Section 232 of *The Election Act, 1996*, the *Registered Political Party Form* (E-521) returns are available for public inspection at Elections Saskatchewan. Returns may be viewed on the Elections Saskatchewan website.

D. Annual/Campaign Period Reporting

In accordance with Section 13 of the *Political Contributions Tax Credit Act*, a Chief Official Agent of a participating Registered Political Party must file a reconciliation of tax receipts used for the preceding calendar year. This reconciliation is filed with the Chief Electoral Officer in prescribed form on or by the last day of April. This annual reporting is undertaken on an *Annual Report of Contributions (Registered Political Party)* (Form P-602) and details the aggregate amount of contributions receipted, the number of tax receipts issued, spoiled or duplicated, and the number of tax receipts retained (i.e., unused).

Where an independent candidate participates in the Province's political contributions tax credit system, that candidate's business manager must file, in prescribed form, a reconciliation of tax receipts provided for use during the campaign period, together with the aggregate amount of contributions receipted, in accordance with Section 12 of the *The Political Contributions Tax Credit Act.* Independent candidates campaign period reporting is submitted on a *Campaign Period Report of Contributions (Independent Candidate)* (Form P-606).

The aggregate value of political contribution tax credit receipts for 2002 was $2,010,183.89, for 2003 was $4,253,132.34, for 2004 was $1,811,834.88, for 2005 was $2,070,248.98, for 2006 was 2,383,382.00, for 2007 was $6,148,827.10, for 2008 was $2,158,018.64 for 2009 was

$2,487,000.16, for 2010 was $3,912,136.36 and for 2011 was $6,769,801.28.
For 2003, $11,110 was receipted and reported for independent candidates. Registered political parties, which issued tax receipts, and the aggregate value of those receipts for 2004 - 2011 are set out in the following tables.

1. Political Contributions Receipted

Political Contributions Receipted

(Calendar Year 2004 - 2011)

Registered Political Party	Aggregate Receipted Contributions							
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Green Party of Saskatchewan	-	$8,231.61	$6,206.00	$22,202.82	$4,810.00	$6,600.21	$9,686.00	$30,353.10
New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	855,799.18	1,016,582.49	$1,014,666.63	1,513,128.14	692,250.19	840,413.57	934,275.83	1,039,403.28
New Green Alliance	13,373.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan	-	-	4,540.00	11,850.00	7,870.00	7,055.00	13,274.00	9,922.00
Saskatchewan Liberal Association	122,556.38	166,084.88	242,512.71	565,462.37	134,499.49	93,517.49	76,984.18	76,446.33
Saskatchewan Marijuana Party	-	-	1,876.21	5,235.00	3,102.00	5,772.26	1,700.00	-
Saskatchewan Party	816,063.40	877,500.00	$1,106,037.45	4,025,889.26	1,315,381.96	1,533,641.63	2,874,216.35	5,613,676.57
Western Independence Party of Saskatchewan (W.I.P.)	4,042.92	1,850.00	7,543.00	5,059.51	105.00	-	2,000.00	-
Independent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	$1,811,834.88	$2,070,248.98	$2,383,382.00	$6,148,827.10	2,158,018.64	$2,487,000.16	3,912,136.36	$6,769,801.28

* The Saskatchewan Marijuana Party was deregistered effective May 12, 2012

2. Saskatchewan Tax Credits Issued

Saskatchewan Tax Credits Issued	
For Political Contributions (2001-2011)	
Tax Year	
2001	$1,663,123.32
2002	$2,010,183.89
2003	$4,253,132.34
2004	$1,811,834.88
2005	$2,070,248.98
2006	$2,383,382.00
2007	$6,148,827.10
2008	$2,158,018.64
2009	$2,487,000.16
2010	$3,912,136.36
2011	$6,769,801.28
Total Tax Credits Issued	$35,667,887.67

Pursuant to subsection 16(2) of *The Political Contributions Tax Credit Act* and Section 232 of *The Election Act, 1996*, annual registered political party and independent candidate campaign filings, on Form P-602 and P-606, respectively, are available for public inspection at Elections Saskatchewan.

E. Compliance

Elections Saskatchewan Interpretation Bulletins

In order to assist the registered political parties to comply with legislation the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer periodically distributes Elections Saskatchewan Interpretation Bulletins. In the 2011-2012 fiscal year, two Elections Saskatchewan Interpretation Bulletins were distributed. Also see details regarding previous interpretation bulletins noted below.

Number	Subject	Issue Date
ESIB-FI05	Treatment of Membership Fees by Political Parties	January 31, 2012
ESIB-FI04	Joint Advertising	August 11, 2011
	Previous Interpretation Bulletins	
ESIB-FI03	Expenses of Advertising on the Internet	March 1, 2011
ESIB-FI02	Advertisements under Section 215 of The Election Act, 1996	September 22, 2010
ESIB-FI01	Party vs. Candidate Expenses	September 22, 2010
SEIB-OP01	Prohibited Displays, Devices, and Actions on Polling Day	September 22, 2010

VII. Liaison

To improve the electoral process in Saskatchewan, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer:

- maintains a liaison with various stakeholder groups in the province in order to receive feedback on election legislation, policies and procedures;
- educates stakeholder groups about the OCEO;
- reviews and assesses new electoral administration initiatives on an on-going basis; and
- maintains a liaison with all independent officers of the Legislative Assembly.

In the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year, OCEO representatives participated in federal, provincial, territorial electoral meetings, conferences and workshops, along with meetings of the independent officers as summarized below.

A. Saskatchewan Social Science Teachers' Institute

In April 3, 2011, the ACEO gave a presentation to the Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on the role of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer/Elections Saskatchewan.

B. Voters with Disabilities

On April 27, 2011, the Acting Chief Electoral Officer, the Chief Operating Officer and the Communications Consultant met with the Executive Director of the Office of Disability Issues. Discussions took place on the progress made since the "Public Forums on Voting and Ways to Improve Accessibility to Voters with Disabilities" which were held in Regina on April 9, 2008, and in Saskatoon on April 10, 2008. A number of recommendations in the *Report of the Chief Electoral Officer: Volume III - Recommendations for Changes to The Election Act, 1996 - Twenty-Sixth Provincial General Election* were discussed. Non-legislative changes in materials, policies and procedures were also discussed. Pending changes to the Elections Saskatchewan website and communication materials were outlined. Plans were made to include a guest speaker with disabilities to discuss the provision of assistance for voters with disabilities at Returning Officer Training. This session was included as part of the Enumeration training session for Returning Officers, Election Clerks, Administrative Assistants and Automation Coordinators held in Regina and Saskatoon in June 2011. Initial plans were also made for OCEO staff to meet with representatives of disability organizations before the General Election in order to let them know of improvements to materials, voting options etc. The session for Saskatoon took place on September 15, 2011, and the session in Regina took place on September 22, 2011. The Chief Operating Officer attended both sessions and the Communications Consultant attended the Regina session.

On July 15, 2011, the Acting Chief Electoral Officer met with the Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission to discuss improvements made for voters with disabilities and to discuss potential recommendations included in the *Report of the Chief Electoral Officer: Volume III - Recommendations for Changes to The Election Act, 1996 - Twenty-Sixth Provincial General Election.*

On March 5, 2012, the Acting Chief Electoral Officer and the Chief Operating Officer met with the Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission to discuss the new model for the Human Rights Commission and its heavy emphasis on problem-solving, mediation, conciliation and collaboration.

C. Visitor Program, Federal General Election

The Acting Chief Electoral Officer was invited to be part of a visitor program for the Federal General Election. Of particular interest was Elections Canada's new approach to accessibility as well as office infrastructure and support infrastructure. The visitor program ran from Sunday, May 1 – Tuesday, May 3, 2011.

D. Conference of Canadian Election Officials

Federal, provincial and territorial Chief Electoral Officers and senior staff have met annually since 1975 at the Conference of Canadian Election Officials to discuss all facets of electoral administration. Elections Alberta hosted the 2011 Conference of Canadian Election Officials in Edmonton, Alberta from May 24-26, 2011. The Acting Chief Electoral Officer and the Chief Operating Officer attended the Conference on behalf of the OCEO.

Discussions focused on social media, voting in treatment centres and universities in New Brunswick, new political financing rules in Québec, electoral boundaries distribution, Elections Canada's Research Framework/Program, as well as outreach and civic engagement. A committee comprised of the Chief Electoral Officers of Ontario, New Brunswick and Québec was established to review and make recommendations with respect to all aspects of the Charter of the Conference of Canadian Election Officials, to report back at the next Advisory Committee of Electoral Partners meeting in Ottawa and to present its final recommendations before the Conference of Canadian Election Officials meeting in July 2012, in Halifax. Also included were committee reports from the E-Voting Committee, Recruitment and Training Committee, the Technology Committee and the Canadian Election Resource Library (CERL).

E. Canada – Debriefing with Saskatchewan and Manitoba Federal Returning Officers

The Acting Chief Electoral Officer was invited to attend the Post–Election Debriefing for Saskatchewan and Manitoba Federal Returning Officers held in Winnipeg, June 23-24, 2011. Successes and challenges at the riding level for the May 2, 2011, Federal Election were discussed. Preliminary thoughts for the upcoming five years were also touched upon.

F. Visitor Program, Ontario Provincial General Election

The Communications Consultant was invited to be part of a visitor program for the Ontario Provincial General Election. The visitor program began Wednesday, October 5th, 2011, and concluded on Thursday night, October 6th after the final count.

This visitor program included:

- an overview of their communications strategy "We Make Voting Easy";
- a tour of Elections Ontario headquarters; and
- visits to a Returning Office, polling location and an Elections Ontario satellite office for a special ballot simulation.

G. Council on Government Ethics Laws (COGEL)

The OCEO is usually represented at the annual COGEL conference. Due to the post-election workload, no one from the OCEO was able to attend the COGEL Conference in Nashville, Tennessee from December 4-7, 2011.

H. Presentation to Legislative Interns

The Acting Chief Electoral Officer (ACEO) gave a presentation to the 2012 Legislative Interns on the role of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer on January 16, 2012.

I. Advisory Committee of Electoral Partners

This committee meets annually hosted by Elections Canada to provide an ongoing forum to discuss issues of mutual interest with the provincial and territorial electoral agencies. On behalf of the OCEO, the Acting Chief Electoral Officer participated in a committee meeting on January 19- 20, 2012, in Ottawa. The topics for discussion included electoral boundaries redistribution, new research on the democratic engagement of young Canadians, emerging issues from the May 2011 federal election, the restructuring of the Conference of Canadian Election Officials (CCEO), Vision 2015 (Elections Canada's Strategic Plan) as well as CCEO reports from the technology committee, recruitment and training committee and the Canadian Election Resource Library (CERL).Traditionally this meeting is held in Ottawa in late November. Due to the high number of jurisdictions having elections in the fall of 2011, the timing was switched to January of 2012.

J. Network Voting

Bill 231, Election Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010 (Ontario) requires the Chief Electoral Officer (of Ontario) to review alternative voting technologies and report to the Speaker by June 30, 2013.
A Request for Proposals for a network voting solution was issued in December 2011, eliciting proposals from three proponents. The three proponents were invited to participate in stand-up presentations to help Elections Ontario gain further insight into their proposed solutions.

The Acting Chief Electoral Officer and the Manager of Information Technology and Register of Electors were invited by Elections Ontario to attend the Network Voting Proponent Presentations as observers in Toronto on January 23-24, 2012.

Note: At an E-Voting Workshop held at Elections Ontario on May 3-4, 2012, it was announced that due to the government being in a minority position, the top priority of Elections Ontario was to be ready for a possible general election. As a result the contract was not awarded and the matter of an Elections Ontario Network Voting Pilot Project was put on hold for at least one year at which time the matter will be re-visited.

K. Launch Conference for the 2012 Redistribution of Federal Electoral Districts

On February 21-22, 2012, the Acting Chief Electoral Officer attended the Launch Conference for the 2012 redistribution of Federal Electoral Districts in Ottawa. On the first day, topics at the conference included the key roles and responsibilities in the redistribution process, the legal framework, administrative and technical support, the commission redistricting tool, communications strategy and tools, media relations training and public feedback on the 2002 electoral boundaries proposals. On the second day, guest speakers spoke on representation in Canada, community of interest or identity, the role of commissioners in previous redistribution exercises, the Official Languages Act, electoral redistribution and closed off with a panel discussion on "Finding a Balance Between Voter Parity and Communities of Interest or Identity". Members of the ten federal boundaries commissions, guest speakers and representatives from jurisdictions going through or about to begin their own redistribution process attended the event. It was well received by all in attendance.

L. New MLA Orientation

On February 27, 2012, the Acting Chief Electoral Officer gave a presentation on the role of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer/Elections Saskatchewan. This was the first time that the new MLA Orientation given by the independent officers of the Legislative Assembly took place at the offices of the independent officers rather than at the Legislative Building. The new MLAs present met senior staff and had a tour of the Elections Saskatchewan facilities. There was also a chance for new MLAs to ask questions of the Acting Chief Electoral Officer. The presentation and the opportunity to meet were well received by those in attendance.

M. Post-Election Debriefing

Returning Officers were asked to complete a written report outlining their experience during the November 7, 2011 General Election. In February and March 2012 the senior staff, with the assistance of a facilitator, met with Returning Officers and Election Clerks to discuss various issues that should be addressed for the next election. The focus was on constructive criticism and new ideas. A survey of the automation coordinators from each constituency was undertaken and a debriefing session held with a group of automation coordinators in February 2012. In March 2012 debriefing sessions were also held with Field Liaison Officers, the staff of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer and some major suppliers. In the new fiscal year debriefing sessions will continue dealing with specific topics such as the recruitment of Returning Officers, voting in hospitals, remand centres and correctional facilities as well as enumeration and hiring of poll officials in First Nations Communities and voting for persons with disabilities. At the time of writing, the results of a survey to candidates, business managers and registered political party officials asking for feedback is forthcoming.

N. Registered Political Party Advisory Committee

The ad-hoc Registered Political Advisory Committee was formed in 2001 to afford registered political party representatives the opportunity to advise on the administration of the Act and Tax Credit Act, with particular emphasis on the future needs of Saskatchewan's electorate and political stakeholders. No meetings of the Registered Political Party advisory Committee were held in this fiscal year.

O. Software Users Group

Since 2009 representatives from Elections Saskatchewan, Elections Alberta, Elections Northwest Territories and Elections Nunavut have met annually to learn about each other's software and to discuss future software improvements. Representatives of the software firm that developed the original Alberta Register of Electors System (AROES) and customized the software for Elections NWT, Elections Nunavut and Elections Saskatchewan also attended. The 2011 meeting was cancelled due to pending elections in Saskatchewan and the NWT. The 2012 meeting is planned for September.

P. Technology Committee of the Canadian Conference of Election Officials

For this fiscal year the Technology Committee was inactive due to the high number of jurisdictions having elections in the fall of 2011. At the time of writing, a meeting of the committee had been held and the Assistant Chief Electoral Officer and the Communications Consultant were involved in suggesting possible activities for the committee in the upcoming year. The goals of the committee will be confirmed at this summer's Conference of Canadian Election Officials.

Q. Support for the Provincial Constituency Boundaries Commission

In the last few months of the fiscal year the OCEO was preparing to take on the role of technical support for the Constituency Boundaries Commission. Bill 36 - An Act to amend *The Constituency Boundaries Act, 1993,* received Royal Assent on May 16, 2012. The changes include the addition of three more constituencies and the boundaries will be based on the total population that is 18 years of age or older rather than total population. At the time of writing the Constituency Boundaries Commission is well into its task of redrafting the Provincial Constituency Boundaries.

R. Ongoing Liaison with Other Jurisdictions

Throughout the reporting period, the OCEO has received valuable assistance from all Canadian federal, provincial and territorial electoral jurisdictions. The Office thanks all other election Offices across the country for their valuable assistance while continuing to research best practices in other jurisdictions.

On-going liaison is greatly assisted through the use of the Canadian Election Resource Library (CERL). This on-line extranet resource is based at the office of Elections Manitoba and was launched in the spring of 2004. A nominal annual subscription fee from the electoral offices across the country subsidizes the coordinator's salary and benefits. CERL members may interact with other CERL members by replying to messages or starting their own message thread. CERL members may also view on-line forms, legislation, manuals/guides, policies and reports from other jurisdictions across the country.

VIII. Other

A. Continuing Education and Professional Development

The OCEO is committed to innovation, creativity, and administrating a superior electoral process and experience for all stakeholders. In order to achieve these goals the OCEO is committed to continuing education. This is especially important, as there are many new staff members in the OCEO who have not previously worked in a General Election. In this reporting period, the OCEO staff have taken advantage of the following continuing education opportunities:

Senior Administrative Coordinator

Parliamentary Program, Legislative Bldg, Regina
March 17, 2012

GIS Technicians

ESRI Canada User Conference, Regina
September 27, 2011

Communications Consultant

BMO Procurement Card training, Regina
April 29, 2011
Facebook Marketing, Regina
March 5, 2012
St. John's Ambulance First Aid Course, Regina
March 21-22, 2012
Opening Doors: Electoral Participation of Persons with Disabilities webinar, Regina
March 29, 2012

Financial Compliance Consultant

Ceridian Payroll Training, Winnipeg
August 10-11, 2011
Forensic Accounting – The Basics Webinar, Regina
March 15, 2012

Manager of Election Finances

BMO Procurement Card training, Regina
April 29, 2011
Ceridian Payroll Training, Winnipeg
August 10-11, 2011
Forensic Accounting – The Basics webinar Regina
March 15, 2012

Chief Operating Officer

Parliamentary Program, Legislative Bldg, Regina
March 17, 2012

Acting Chief Electoral Officer

HR Public Service Commission Workshop on New Policy, Regina
January 20, 2011
Saskatchewan Ombudsman Conflict Resolution Workshop, Saskatoon
May 10, 2010

B. Staffing

The Hamilton Report was commissioned in January 2009 and was made public on April 28, 2010. It calls for 13 permanent full-time positions (see 2009 - 2010 jurisdictional reports for more details).

Although there are still only four permanent positions in the OCEO, staffing now stands at:

- 4 permanent full-time positions filled;
- 1 two-year full-time term position to March 31, 2013;
- 8 one-year full-time term positions to March 31, 2013;
- 3 part-time positions.
- 2 vacant positions.

Michael Boda has been appointed Chief Electoral Officer as of June 1, 2012. David Wilkie, who was Acting Chief Electoral Officer, returned to his Assistant Chief Electoral Officer position.